A NEW FOSSIL GRASS FROM THE MIOCENE OF FLORISSANT, COLORADO.

By Charles T. and Beirne B. Brues.

The occurrence of fossil Gramineæ in the Miocene shales of Florissant was first noted by Cockerell* who described *Stipa laminarum* from these deposits.

In the present note we have the pleasure of describing a second species, referable to the genus *Melica,* also collected by Professor T. D. A. Cockerell and very kindly loaned to us by him for study. Through the efforts of Lesquereux, Cockerell and others the fossil flora of the wonderfully rich deposits of this region have been quite thoroughly worked out and many species have been described, but so far only two species of grasses have been brought to light.

Like *Stipa,* the genus to which the new form belongs is at the present time widely distributed throughout temperate and subtropical regions where it is represented by a considerable number of species.

Melica primæva sp. nov.

The specimen shows a detached pair of secund spikelest viewed from the inner, or side nearest the rachis. The spikelet which is

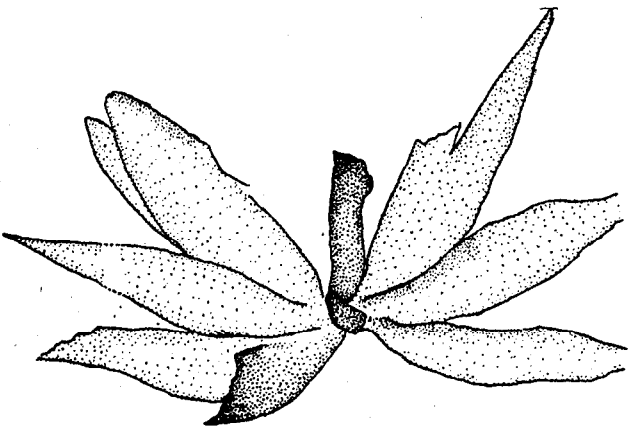

Fig. 1. *Melica primæva* sp. nov. Shaded portions indicate lower laminæ of the shale.

best preserved is about 12 millimeters long and shows five glumes; the lower of these, presumably one of the empty glumes is visible only at the base, its apical portion extending under the shale be-

* Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. His., Vol. 24, p. 79 (1908).

neath the lowest flowering glume. The latter is not well preserved at the tip, but the second is visible for its entire length. It is 10 mm. long and about 2 mm. wide, broadly lanceolate in outline, with acutely pointed but unawned apex. Between the second and third flowering glumes can be seen the apex of the second empty glume. The spikelet thus appears to be three flowered, which also appears to be true of the second one, which shows three flowering glumes in a position symmetrical to those of the first and bears an empty glume partly hidden in the shale in almost the same position as the upper empty glume of the first spikelet. The lower empty glume of this spikelet probably lies beneath the first flowering glume in the shale.

Described from one specimen collected at Florissant, Colorado by Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell in the Miocene shales at station 14.

The present species appears to belong quite properly to *Melica* with which it agrees in all essential particulars. The secund insertion of the two spikelets as shown in the type, their large size and the form of the glumes, and the apparently very short joints of the rachilla seem to determine its location here with but little doubt. A superficially similar arrangement of the spikelets occurs in certain Hordeae, but other characters exclude it from a place in this trible.

THE GENERIC NAME ROOSEVELTIA.

I find that *Rooseveltia* proposed by me for a genus of *Attidæ* from Borneo, Trans. Wisconsin Acad. Sciences, Arts and Letters, Vol. XV, pt. II, p. 164 (1907) is preoccupied in Jordan and Seale's Fishes of Samoa, Dept. Comm. Lab. Bur. Fish., No. 25 (1906). I propose in its place *Ogdenia* after Dr. H. V. Ogden of Milwaukee.

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